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09/944,389	09/04/2001	Paul James Davis	IMIN.P-002-2	9864
21121	7590	11/28/2003	EXAMINER	
OPPEDAHL AND LARSON LLP P O BOX 5068 DILLON, CO 80435-5068			NGUYEN, BAO THUY L	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1641		22
DATE MAILED: 11/28/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendments filed on 12/23/02; 3/6/03 and 3/11/03 have been received.

Claims 84-102 have been added. Claims 26-102 are pending.

2. All rejections not reiterated herein below are withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

3. Newly submitted claims 87, 88, 96-102 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the device of claims 87, 88 and 96-10 does not require a housing.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 87, 88, 96-102 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 93 and 94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the

claimed invention. Newly added claims 93 and 94 do not have support in the specification as originally filed. Cancellation of these claims is required. In the event that Applicant believes support is present in the specification, Applicant is requested to specifically point to the page and line number where such support may be found.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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7. Claims 26, 27, 29-30, 32-36, 39-46, 48, 49, 51-55, 58-63, 84-86, 89, 91, 92 and 95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Eisinger et al (US 4,943,522).

Eisinger discloses an analytical test device comprising a dry porous carrier (100), such as nitrocellulose or polyethylene, with the ability to effect a chromatographic separation and with a pore size of about 10 to about 50 microns, encased in a housing (comprising 120 and 140) having a well (132) which provides a means for applying a liquid samples, such as urine, to the dry porous carrier indirectly, i.e. through a pad or macroporous body (110) which is different from and adjacent to the dry porous carrier (100). See column 10, line 50 through column 11, line 28. The dry porous carrier contains at least one indicator or detection zone comprising immobilized unlabelled specific binding partner for target analyte along with optional control and reference zones. See column 7, lines 19-30. The macroporous pad contains diffusible specific binding partner conjugated to a conventional label, e.g. a colored latex particle. See

column 5, lines 28-36. The device's housing further comprises apertures (146a and 146b) for viewing the various detection, control and/or reference zones. See column 12, lines 21-36. Suitable analytes include those conventionally measured by standard sandwich or competitive immunoassays, including hormones, such as hCG, using conventional sample types, such as blood and urine. See also figures 1 and 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. Claims 28, 31, 37, 38, 47, 50, 56, 57, 64-83, 90, 93 and 94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eisinger in view of May et al (EPA 0,291,194) and, if necessary, Olsen (US 4,963,468).

See the discussion of Eisinger above. Eisinger differs from the claimed invention in failing to teach latex particles having a maximum dimension under 0.5 microns; latex colored with a fluorescent dye; macroporous pad pore size at least 10 times greater than the average size of the particulate label; a porous receiving member producing out the housing, which receiving member is covered with a removable cap; and adaptation of the device for LH analysis.

May, however, disclose a housed immunoassay device, similar in internal design in function and materials to that disclosed by Eisinger, which provides a protruding porous receiving member covered by a removable cap for applying liquid test sample, such as urine, to the test device within the housing. May discloses colored latex particles having a maximum diameter from about 0.05 to about 0.5 micron for use with a nitrocellulose carrier material of at least one to about 20 microns. The latex particles may be directly visible to the naked eye, or with the aid of applied stimulation, e.g. UV light to cause fluorescence. Adaptation of the test

device for measurement of LH and hCG are disclosed as important alternative in fertility determination. See abstract; page 3, lines 13-20, 21, 35-47, 58; page 4, lines 1-16, 31, 42-46, page 5, lines 43-45 and page 6, lines 3-5. may also discloses a device incorporating two more discrete bodies of porous solid phase material, each carrying mobile and immobile reagents. These discrete bodies can be arranged in parallel such that a single application of liquid sample to the device initiates sample flow in the discrete bodies simultaneously (page 12, lines 6-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Eisinger by using conventional sized (fluorescently or visually) colored latex particles with preferred nitrocellulose immuno chromatographic porous carriers in a housed test device which housing comprises a protruding porous receiving member for applying liquid sample thereto as suggested by May for the same known and intended purpose of measuring immunoassay reactions using preferred materials and sample techniques as stated above. It would have been further obvious to adapt the instant device to such known and conventional analytes such hCG and LH which not only have important clinical significance in fertility testing but also are known to be successfully measured by analogous testing devices as suggested by both Eisinger and May. It also would have been obvious to adapt the instant device to incorporate two more porous carriers for detecting two or more analytes for the advantages cited in May above.

As to the macroporous pad pore size being at least 10 times greater than the maximum particle size of a selected particulate label, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to selected a pore size which provided optimum flow rate and permitted solubilization and migration of such particulate labels. Olsen, if necessary, discloses that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use a macroporous pad with such a larger pore size so

as to prevent the particulate immunoreagent from becoming embedded or non-diffusively bound in the macroporous pad. See column 15, lines 36-45.

Conclusion

9. No claim is allowed.
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bao-Thuy L. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-4243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long V. Le can be reached on (703) 305-3399. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4242 for regular communications and (703) 308-3014 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Bao-Thuy L. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1641
June 19, 2003